

The Carlsbad Current and New Mexico Sun.

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Carlsbad, N. M., Friday, Jan. 31, 1908

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Probate Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Probate Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder of Eddy county, subject to the action of the democratic primaries.

Arthur R. O'Quinn.

The Artesia Advocate, not content with criticism of the county board on the bridge question, has a howl this week on county printing. The Current begs to cite its esteemed contemporary to page 1007 of the compiled statutes which provides that the commissioners, after choosing a county printer, the officials must have said printer do all printing, etc. The law says nothing about letting printing by bids any more than letting the office of probate clerk and recorder to the lowest bidder, and the law prescribes the fees the county must pay for the publishing of proceedings, tax list, etc. just the same as it does the fees paid the recorder for recording deeds, mortgages, etc. The county board selects the official paper for the county just the same as the register of a local land office selects the official paper for the land office, and it is just as impossible for a democratic paper to get a land notice by bidding for it as it is for a republican paper in a democratic county to get to publish the tax list, etc. Then the law provides the advertising must be done in a paper of general circulation in the county. No other paper than the Current has a general circulation in Eddy county, and its owner pays twice as much taxes as all other newspaper owners in Eddy county combined, while owning less property than one in particular.

Now, the Advocate should take a reasonable view of the matter and consider whether it is profitable to contend against a brother democrat, or to take up arms against the common enemy, the party of pie and plunder, that, if in control in Eddy county would select the official paper just the same as the republican district court gives the printing of the court docket, fat legal notices, and all printing within its jurisdiction to republican papers without bids. Then no reputable merchant ever hacks around his job printing for bids, any more than the editor of the Advocate asks for bids on his groceries or clothing.

The newspapers are to blame if they starve, for many are not content unless villifying and abusing a would be friendly contemporary.

Again, when this county was controlled by republicans the Argus got the printing without a bid, and would again if the board was republican. How many land notices has the Advocate published since a republican sheet of doubtful circulation was started in Artesia? This should be enough to convince any sane democratic publisher that a quarrel among democrats is the only opportunity for republicans in Eddy county.

The senseless statement that the county tax rate has been raised while the property valuation of Ed-

dy county has doubled, still travels via the Artesia liar route. An examination of the rates on tax receipts for fifteen years shows that the county rate has not been raised while the territorial rate has more than doubled. The robber republican layout of the territory has caused taxes to be much higher. Any sensible, well-informed lawyer could show the howlers for lower salaries that such a move would be impossible, for the courts have decided that a candidate for office who offers his services for less than the salary prescribed by law, is offering a bribe to the voter, and even if elected under such an offer could not hold the office. Newspapers that make statements that the county rate is higher and that the officials should take the offices at a salary lower than prescribed by law should look up the facts and be more accurate in their statements.

Under usual democratic custom the executive committee of the county is generally called together immediately after the first of an election year, and questions concerning the interests of the party are considered. In the event of the chairman not calling the committee together the custom is for the committee to meet, elect a chairman pro tem and set date for primaries which will accord with the wish of the candidates. In the event of the committee not acting in reasonable time, any democrat of the party may call a mass meeting and a new committee is elected. Democracy is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people. Committeemen are only servants, and any effort to delay calling the committee together and performing the will of the people will be met by a general mass meeting or meetings of democrats in order to sound the sentiment of the people as to when primaries should be held and the other interests of the party considered. In case no action is taken the democracy will certainly be called upon to speak as a whole within the next ten days. No self-consolidated bossism will be allowed in Eddy county, but the will of a majority of democrats will be law as it has always been.

Jas. D. Whelan, erstwhile editor of the Advocate at Artesia is out in a three column article in the Advocate scoring the commissioners for not calling another election to vote on bridge bonds for Artesia, and among other wild statements exudes the following:

"The board cannot claim that it refused to call another election because it believed the first election valid; for I am informed that the members all believed that the district attorney was right in his opinion that the election was invalid. Moreover, I am told that they all agreed that Mr. Fullen was right in his opinion that the election was invalid. Moreover, I am told that they all agreed that it was their duty to call another election. Hence, the action of Mr. Heard and Mr. Weaver in refusing to vote for the new election was a deliberate violation of official duty. The petition presented by the two hundred residents of Carlsbad, was of course, without legal standing and is only an evidence of bad faith on the part of the people of that town. Professing to believe that the first election was legal, in which they are possibly correct, they should have expressed their willingness to assist in determining the matter by means of a friendly suit."

The board not only believes the first election valid, but the best legal talent in Eddy county that

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has looked up the matter, knows the first election was valid. Mr. Whelan should either get his information first hand or not quote the board. His information (?) is very inaccurate. Mr. Fullen never rendered an opinion to the effect that the first election was invalid, but instead, said in a letter to the board, without consulting authorities, that he "believed the point well taken" or words to that effect. The people of Carlsbad never refused to assist in determining the matter by means of a friendly suit.

Roswell is in the throes of a campaign to vote water works bonds, which will evidently carry and make the bonded debt of Roswell close to \$300,000. Carlsbad is probably the only town in the territory without a bonded debt and is also the prettiest town in the territory.

A large majority of the candidates for county office favor an early primary, and any effort to delay matters will be met with the counter action it deserves. It is the duty of Chairman Cooper to call the committee together to review the situation, learn the will of the candidates and democrats generally and take such action that in the wisdom of the committee seems most proper. Every democratic newspaper wants an early primary, and three-fourths of the democrats favor an early primary, therefore it is not a choice but a duty to get together and call primaries.

H. W. Hamilton, president of the Artesia Telephone Company, returned hurriedly from South Texas, in response to a message telling him that the town trustees had passed an ordinance calling for the surrender of the telephone franchise. It is not necessary to state that Mr. Hamilton is opposed to a surrender. He informs the Advocate that he will fight to the last ditch, and intimates that he will open a fight of another kind against the city council.—Artesia Advocate.

Mr. Hamilton should stay with his bush and pick all the berries before going to South Texas to seek finer and better patches. Better take care of your post office and telephone Harry. This spreading out will never pay while you have the Artesia crowd to hold down. They will surely give any reasonable man enough to do.

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